

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-20 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3 and 7 were cancelled. Claims 18-20 are new. Claim 1 was amended to address an informality and by incorporating the limitations of claim 3 and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention of claim 1. Claim 4 was amended to change the dependency of that claim from cancelled claim 3 to claim 1. Claim 9 was amended to address an informality. Claim 17 was amended to address an informality and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention of claim of claim 17. Support for the new limitations to claim 1 and claim 17 can be found in at least the original claims 1 and 3, Figures 23-25 and pages 26-30 of the specification. Support for new claims 18-20 can be found in at least Figure 25, page 27, lines 1-3 and page 29, lines 23-26 of the specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

For at least the reasons set forth below, withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 2, 9 and 17 for informalities. Claims 1, 9 and 17 were amended in accordance to Examiner's suggestions.

As stated above, claim 2 was cancelled thereby rendering the rejection of that claim effectively moot. Also as stated above, the claims 1, 9 and 17 were amended to address the informalities.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding objections to claims 1, 9 and 17.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As stated above, claims 2 and 7 were cancelled thereby rendering the rejections of those claims effectively moot.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 5-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0036793 (Roosen *et al.*).

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Roosen *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0197887 (Shenoy *et al.*).

As stated above, claims 2, 3 and 7 have been cancelled thereby rendering the rejections of those claims effectively moot. The Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding rejections.

1. Patentability of independent claims 1 and 17 over Roosen

Claim 1 now reads as follows (underlining for emphasis only):

A print control method for a printing apparatus comprising the steps of:

receiving data at the printing apparatus transmitted by an external apparatus;

analyzing said received data;

storing said received data into a storing unit of the printing apparatus as print data if said received data is found to be print data as a result of said analysis;

converting a portion of said print data into an image data format in which the portion of the print data can be displayed by said external apparatus;

storing into the storing unit said image data in an interlocking relation with said print data;

forming information regarding the print data stored in said storing unit and transmitting the information and said image data to a sender of inquiry data if said received data is

determined to be inquiry data as a result of said analysis;
and

selecting said print data stored in said storing unit and printing said print data if said received data is determined to be a print instruction data as a result of said analysis.

Claim 17 now reads as follows (underlining for emphasis only):

A printing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit which receives data from a host;
a transmitting unit which transmits data to the host;
a print unit which prints print data onto a medium;
an analyzing unit which analyzes the data received from said host;
a storing unit which stores said print data if a result of said analysis indicates that the data is print data;
a list forming unit which forms a list of the print data stored in said storing unit and outputs said list of the print data to said transmitting unit if the result of said analysis indicates inquiry data;
a print instructing unit which, if the result of said analysis indicates print instruction data, outputs said print data stored in said storing unit to said print unit on a basis of said print instruction data; and
a converting unit which converts a portion of said print data it into an image data format in which the print data can be displayed by said host as the image data, the image data stored into the storing unit in an interlocking relation with

said print data and the transmitting unit transmitting the image data if said inquiry data is received.

In an embodiment of the present invention, a printer apparatus and a print control method for a printing apparatus is disclosed. The print control method for the printing apparatus comprises the step of converting [the] a portion of the print data [received by the printer apparatus] into an image data format in which the data can be displayed by [an] external apparatus. In a preferred embodiment, the print data received by the printing apparatus that represents a portion of the print data (a print preview) is developed into a bit map in the processing unit 46 and then converted into an image data format, such as a JPEG or PDF, in which the image data can be displayed by an external apparatus. See Figure 25, page 27, lines page 29, lines 18-20 of the present specification. The print control method for the printing apparatus also comprises the step of storing into the storing unit of the printing apparatus the image data in an interlocking relation with [the] print data. In a preferred embodiment, the print data converted into a JPEG or PDF referred to above is stored as a print preview of the print data into the added entry job in the HDD 28. See Figure 25 and page 29, lines 21-22 of the present specification. The print control method for the printing apparatus further comprises the step of transmitting the image data if said inquiry data is received. In a preferred embodiment, in reply to an inquiry from the external apparatus, the converted JPEG or PDF is transmitted to the external apparatus from the printing apparatus in order for the operator at the external apparatus to confirm the print job to be printed. See page 29, line 23 to page 30, line 2 of the present specification. The printing apparatus comprises analogous structure required to implement the print control method for the printing apparatus described above. See pages 26-30 of the present specification.

On page 7 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner states that Roosen discloses the print method steps and structure described above in the rejection of now cancelled claim 3. Roosen does not disclose or suggest a printing apparatus or a print control method for a printing apparatus in that data sent by an external apparatus is received by the printing apparatus and [converted] into an image data format in which the data can be displayed by [the] external

apparatus; [stored] into the storing unit of the printing apparatus in an interlocking relation with [the] print data; and [transmitted] the if inquiry data is received. To the contrary, in Roosen, no print data is converted on the printing apparatus, and thus no converted print data can be stored in a storage device on the printing apparatus and no converted print data can be transmitted from the printing apparatus in response to an inquiry from the workstation.

As described in paragraphs [0023]-[0030] of Roosen, the workstation extracts (via the DAC) certain identification data from the print data file that is present on the printer. This extracted identification data is merely textual data, as it is removed from the print file, and it is not converted to image data while on the printing apparatus. The print data file is stored unchanged on a storage unit of the printing apparatus. The print data file only undergoes a conversion to printable data and then printed when the printing apparatus receives a print command from the print operator. No conversion of the print data into an image data format in which the data can be displayed by [the] external apparatus is disclosed or suggested in the printing apparatus disclosed in Roosen. Therefore, Roosen does not disclose or suggest that converted data can be [stored] into the storing unit of the printing apparatus in an interlocking relation with [the] print data and [transmitted] the if inquiry data is received.

Figures 8 and 9 and paragraphs [0040]-[0075] of Roosen, to which the Examiner refers, merely disclose the function of the workstation desktop software that takes the print data file identification data that was extracted from the print data file on the printing apparatus and displays the extracted print file identification data in the form of icons and lists. This print file identification data is not print data. Instead, the print file identification data comprises associated data such as the name of the owner of the file and the name of the file itself. See paragraph [0027] of Roosen. Whatever conversion is made by the desktop software of the print identification data to display such data as the list and icons as seen in Figures 8 and 9 occurs at the workstation and not at the printing apparatus. Also, whatever conversion is made by the desktop software of the print identification data, no conversion at all is made of the print data on the printing apparatus into a format in which the data can be displayed by the workstation.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(b) rejections of claims 1 and 17.

2. Patentability of the dependent claims 5, 6, 8-16 and 18-20 over Roosen

The dependent claims 5, 6, 8-16 and 18-20 are considered patentable for at least the reason that they depend from a patentable base claim and recite further patentable steps. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(b) rejections of claims 5, 6 and 8-16 and further allow new dependent claims 18-20.

3. Patentability of the dependent claim 4 and 18-20 over Roosen in view of Shenoy

Claim 4 is believed to be patentable over the cited references for at least the reason that claim 4 depends from a patentable base claim and further recites additional patentable steps. Further, Shenoy does not compensate for the deficiencies of Roosen.

In Shenoy, the computer output device 110 (the printer) receives (“pulls”) whatever it may display or print from the job store device 140 which is a printer server device and not a printing apparatus. See paragraphs [0022]-[0024]. Therefore, Shenoy does not disclose or suggest a print control method for a printing apparatus which comprises the steps of:

converting a portion of said print data into an image data format in which the portion of the print data can be displayed by said external apparatus;
storing into the storing unit said image data in an interlocking relation with said print data;
forming information regarding the print data stored in said storing unit and transmitting the information and said image data to a sender of inquiry data if said received data is determined to be inquiry data as a result of said analysis

Shenoy also does not disclose or suggest a printer apparatus which comprises:

a converting unit which converts a portion of said print data it into an image data format in which the print data can be displayed by said host as the image data, the image data being stored into the storing unit in an interlocking relation with said print data and the transmitting unit transmitting the image data if said inquiry data is received

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §103(a) rejection of claim 4 and further allow new dependent claims 18-20.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections were fully addressed, the instant application including all pending claims is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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